

Carillon Recitals

Century Tower
The University of Florida
Sunday, November 9, 2025
1:55 PM

UF Carillon Studio

TO THE SUN & BEYOND

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF CARL SAGAN (11/9/34 – 12/20/96)

Asteroids (original composition for carillon)

Gary White (b. 1937)

JENNIFER MOLONEY

An excerpt from episode 1 of "Cosmos" (TV) and chapter 1 of *Cosmos* (print) ELIZABETH A. LADA

Making Contact arr. Hubbell

Julia Hubbell

Andromeda (original composition for carillon)

Yvette Janine Jackson (b. 1973)

TORI LAROSE

To the Sun (original composition)

Chafe, Gentemann, Held, Niemeyer, & Wu

LAURA ELLIS & ATTENDEE CELL PHONES

To the Sun is a participatory carillon concert event composed by Chris Chafe and created by Greg Niemeyer, William Wu, and Faye Held with NASA Parker Solar Probe data curated by Chelle Gentemann.

THE PARKER SOLAR PROBE

Two elements make life possible: the Sun's energy and abundant water. Yet, the Sun's power remained obscured by enormous distance, light, and heat. Until now.

In 2018, NASA launched the Parker Solar Probe to touch the Sun and study the Sun's atmosphere. In 2024, the Probe reached the closest orbit. A team of artists and scientists asked what this epic journey feels like, looks like, and sounds like. The result: a unique vision of the Probe's entire journey, condensed into 10 minutes of music for carillon and cell phones here at Century Tower. Listen, watch, and play along, together.

To the Sun is a composition for carillon and cell phones. The carillon carries the main voices, while the cell phones form an interactive choir. Participants can press buttons in sync with magnetic and plasma waves the Probe encountered on its journey. If their timing is right and they catch a wave, their phone will produce sonified sounds of that wave. For To the Sun, Chris Chafe used plasma density, magnetic field, and distance to the sun data as a starting point for the tower bells, and plasma density and magnetic field data for the interactive cell phone choir.

GRAPHIC NOTATION

Most music is notated using the classical five-stave system, but some works call for more flexible approaches known as graphical notation. The composers opted for a notation that emphasizes timing and dynamics rather than melody or rhythm, allowing the performer to choose the exact notes. The score indicates the timing of white keys (ovals) and black keys (diamonds). Like each journey, each performance is unique.

HOW TO PLAY ALONG

- 1. Turn up the volume on your phone (do not have phone on silent).
- 2. Click this <u>code</u> with your phone to join the performance.
- 3. Wait for the performance to begin.
- 4. The performer will start the game, you will then see a 4-second countdown to launch.

 **A video with bell sounds will play: close the pop-up window to get to the game screen.
- 5. Tap the appropriate button each time a wave passes through.

PURPOSE

This performance offers an interactive view of the Parker Solar Probe's voyage. The speed is greatly accelerated: 6 years in 10 minutes. The waves of plasma and interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) are visualizations and sonifications of plasma and IMF the Probe measured. The tower bells track the movement of the Probe.

For more information, visit: suncarillon.org

Stellar arr. Chalfoun

Francesca Chalfoun

Across the Universe arr. Peine

ROSEMARY PEINE

Mars?

ALEXIS ORR

An excerpt from chapter 1 of Pale Blue Dot

ALYSSA BULATEK

We are the Boys of Old Florida

Traditional

NOAH BOLIN

Visit us at: mmv.arts.ufl.edu/carillon
or "like" us on Facebook
(search University of Florida Carillon Studio)

On Instagram

@ufcarillon



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Please join us for events in our Fall concert series!

Sunday, December 7, 1:55PM: Annual UF Carillon Studio Holiday Concert

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Carillon music is performed Monday thru Friday from 12:35-12:50 & 4:55-5:10 when classes are in session.

For more information about carillon performances, please visit the carillon website: www.arts.ufl.edu/carillon

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About the Carillon

Century Tower, a monument constructed in 1953 in memory of students killed in World War I and World War II, houses a cast-bell carillon. By definition, a carillon must have at least 23 fixed, finely tuned bells. The Century Tower Carillon has 61 bells, encompassing a range of 5 octaves, and is one of the largest university carillons in the United States. There are fewer than 200 traditional carillons in all of North America, and only four can be found in the state of Florida.

The carillon is played by hand from a clavier or keyboard, with 61 keys (called "batons") for the hands as well as 25 pedals for the feet, in a small room just below the bell chamber. The carillonneur moves the clappers of the bells with the batons and pedals while the bells remain stationary.

Through the efforts of Professor Emeritus Willis Bodine, the world-class carillon housed in Century Tower was purchased for approximately \$200,000 with funds accumulated from student fees over several generations of students. These funds were earmarked by the Board of Regents and the Legislature for campus improvements in the performing arts. The carillon purchase was endorsed unanimously by the Student Senate in 1976.

The original 49 bells housed on the top floor of the tower were cast in 1978 by the firm of Koninklijke Eijsbouts (Royal Dutch Bell Foundry) of Asten, The Netherlands. The bronze bells were tuned at the foundry by carefully shaving metal from the interior of the bells and will never need re-tuning. The bells are hung individually from stainless steel bolts on a massive steel frame. The largest bell, the "bourdon," stands five feet tall, is five feet in diameter and weighs about 7,000 pounds.

A \$450,000 gift from the estate of Larry A. Webb of St. Augustine, FL, made possible major upgrading of the carillon in 2002. The renovation, carried out by Eijsbouts, included the installation of 12 additional bells (for a total of 61), improvements in the playing action, and new performance and practice claviers.